

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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R 121721Z JUN 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9037

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 752

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN

REF: A. STATE 120525

B. EC BRUSSELS 3032

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED PROGRESS ON THE PROPOSALS FOR REVISING THE EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN WITH OFFICERS OF THE NORWEGIAN, SWEDISH, AND SWISS MISSIONS. APPARENTLY THE CURRENT ROUND OF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL EFTA COUNTRIES, WILL PRODUCE NO PROGRESS WITH REGARD TO THE RULES OF ORIGIN. EACH OF THE EFTA COUNTRIES HAS URGED OR WILL URGE THAT THE COMMUNITY CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY THE EFTA STATES IN MARCH. HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT PRESS FOR RAPID ACTION.

2. OUR SOURCES AGREE WITH OTHER REPORTS THAT THE JOINT CUSTOMS

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COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY PRODUCED LITTLE TANGIBLE BY WAY OF

PREGRESS. THE EFTA STATES PRESSED THEIR CASE, BUT GOT LITTLE RESPONSE FROM THE COMMUNITY SIDE. NEVERTHELESS, THE EFTA MISSION OFFICIALS THINK THEY CAN IDENTIFY WHICH ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL WILL BE EASIEST FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ACCEPT. UNFORTUNATELY THE MOST DIFFICULT WILL BE THE ALTERNATIVE BASIS FOR QUALIFYING AS AN ORIGINATING PRODUCT. THEY ALSO SEEM TO HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW THE MEMBER STATES LINE UP, WITH FRANCE AND ITALY NEGATIVE TO MOST CHANGES AND GERMANY, DENMARK AND THE NETHERLANDS DESIRING TO MAKE REVISIONS. (THE COMMISSION STAFF, SIMILARLY, IS SPLIT. NOT ALL OFFICIALS ARE FOLLOWING GUNDELACH'S LEAD.)

3. THE COMMUNITY IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING THE EFTA PROPOSALS (AS WELL AS THE GERMAN PROPOSALS) INTERNALLY IN ITS RULES OF ORIGIN COMMITTEE. SO FAR, THIS CONSIDERATION HAS NOT PROGRESSED VERY FAR. THE COMMITTEE IS TO MEET AGAIN NEXT WEEK. IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, EXPECTED TO COME FORTH THEN WITH ANY DECISIONS.

4. OUR SOURCES ARE, HOWEVER, OPTIMISTIC THAT IN THE LONG RUN SOME, AND PERHAPS MOST, OF THE EFTA PROPOSALS WILL BE ADOPTED. THEY DO NOT EXPECT THE FIRST TANGIBLE PROGRESS TO BE MADE, HOWEVER, UNTIL THIS WINTER, AND IT APPEARS TO THEM THAT ACHIEVING MAJOR RESULTS WILL TAKE A GOOD DEAL LONGER. GREENWALD

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